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**California Uniform Site  
Assessment Tools  
Fact Sheet  
July 2008**

## California Uniform Site Assessment Tools

The Uniform Site Assessment Tools (Tools) are designed to assist Project Managers from the State Water Resources Control Board, the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards), and the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) (collectively, the Agencies) in their oversight of the investigation of contaminated sites, including Brownfield sites, in California. The Tools compile procedures that Project Managers can use to consider all of the elements that comprise a comprehensive site assessment. Elements include evaluation of exposure pathways that may affect human health, ecological receptors, surface water and groundwater.

### Background

The 2004 Cal/EPA "Brownfields Initiative" directed the Agencies to, among other things, coordinate more closely on brownfield cleanups. The Agencies entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in March 2005 to improve coordination between the Agencies regarding the oversight of investigation and cleanup activities at Brownfields sites. The MOA was developed to ensure effective and expeditious investigation and cleanup of Brownfields sites in a manner that is protective of public health and safety and the environment. The MOA also committed the Agencies to develop a uniform site assessment tool to evaluate environmental and health related issues at Brownfields sites. The Tools are designed to help provide a consistent and comprehensive approach to site assessments conducted with oversight from the Regional Water Board or from DTSC.

### Highlights of Tools

- Provide a common set of criteria to assist DTSC and the Regional Water Boards in the site assessment process
- Provide a checklist of site assessment processes for data collection and evaluation
- Provide a reference list for technical resources

### Use of Tools by Interested Parties

Interested Parties, especially persons preparing site assessments, are encouraged to become familiar with the Tools. Use of the Tools should result in a common approach to site assessment in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations that responsible parties, consultants, regulators, and the general public can use as a basis for performing and reviewing site assessments, regardless of the particular oversight Agency. The Tools do not constitute policy, regulation, or requirements. The Tools are designed to be a living document and are intended to be updated on a continuous basis as needed.

Information on the Tools and additional contacts are available on the following websites:

California Environmental Protection Agency [www.calepa.ca.gov](http://www.calepa.ca.gov)  
Department of Toxic Substances Control [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov)  
State Water Resources Control Board [www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov)